

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 062370
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SS-15
SSO-00 SP-02 PM-05 NSCE-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 SSM-03
PA-01 USIE-00 /072 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:PDW
APPROVED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER
-----061395 102226Z /72
O 102157Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 062370

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM NEA/ARN - DRAPER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, LE, IS

SUBJECT: SAI'QA FORCES IN SOUTHERN LEBANON

REF: BEIRUT 1220

1. WE ARE DOING FURTHER CHECKS WITHIN INTELLIGENCE
COMMUNITY BUT, ON BASIS OUR INITIAL REVIEW, WE FIND IT
DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT ESTIMATE THAT 1500-2000 SAI'QA MAY
HAVE BEEN STATIONED BELOW LITANI RIVER SINCE SPRING OF
1977. I GAVE THIS FIGURE TO ISRAELI EMBASSY COUNSELOR,
ALONG WITH MUCH OF OTHERWISE FINE REFTEL, BUT MY HEART
WASN'T IN IT AS REGARDS 1500-2000 BELOW LITANI. I SAID
WE WOULD BE CARRYING OUT AN ALL-SOURCES REVIEW IN
WASHINGTON INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY WHICH COULD AFFECT
CONCLUSION ON EXACT NUMBER. I EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT
THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT A SAI'QA PRESENCE IN SOUTH
LEBANON HAD BEEN EVIDENT SINCE SPRING OF LAST YEAR.
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2. WE RECOGNIZE DIFFICULTIES OF GETTING HANDLE ON THIS
MATTER, BUT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO CLARIFY
EMBASSY'S REASONING. REF IR MENTIONED REFTEL WAS
INADEQUATELY SUPPORTIVE. IS EMBASSY ALSO COUNTING SYRIAN
SOLDIERS IN SAI'QA UNIFORMS? VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: REPORTS, TROOP DEPLOYMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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TAGS: PINT, MPOL, LE, IS
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